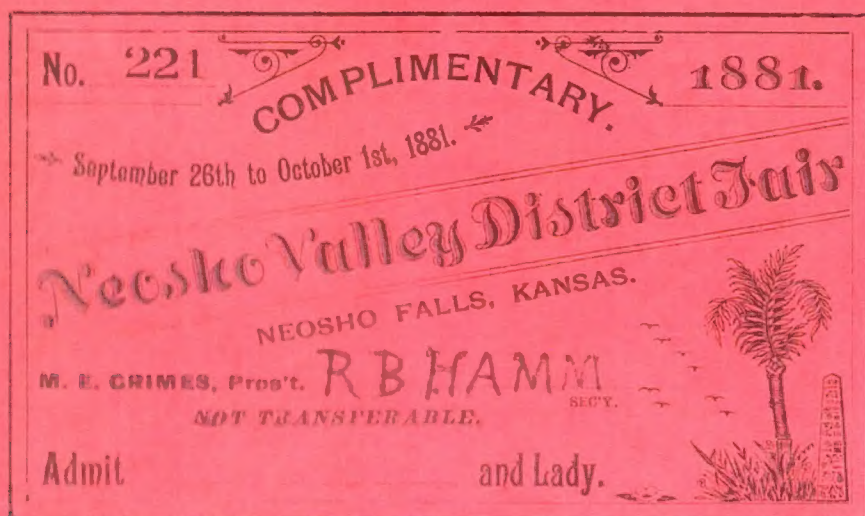


# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 7 - No. 28

## IN THE BEGINNING

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October-1974

*Lester A. Harding, Editor*

### Editor's Notes —

Another year in the life of "In The Beginning" has gone by. We believe that more copies of the last issue have been called for than any other issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

Quite a mistake crept up in the make up of the last issue in regard to the pictures of the Rose School. The names of the pupils were put with the wrong pictures.

\* \* \* \* \*

Most of the subscriptions expire with this issue. It would be very helpful for you people to subscribe without a special notice. However if we think of it we may mark a red box with an X. Also if any of you folks move, it would be helpful if you would write and tell us. We have had two books come back this last issue because of people moving and we did not know it. We lose considerable on an address not known.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our cover picture is one of the complimentary tickets to the Neosho Valley Fair at Neosho Falls, in the fall of 1881. This is just two years after President Rutherford Hayes, Mrs. Hayes and General Sherman visited this fair. Later it was called the Four Couty Fair. Woodson, Allen, Anderson, Coffey. At the time when this ticket was used it was quite an annual affair, drawing crowds from many miles. M. E. Grimes was president and R. B. Hamm was secretary. Hamm was also postmaster at the Falls at that time.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are taking this issue of "In The Beginning" to the printers ahead of our usual time, because the editor and his wife are planning on being gone the last of September and half of October. If some of our subscribers do not get their copy on time it will be because we did not get our work all done before we left. However, that is the purpose of our getting it to the printer early.

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IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The annual July picnic of the Historical Society was held the evening of July 21, 1974. This Sunday was one of the hottest days that we had in this hot, dry, summer, with the mercury up to 110 degrees. This probably accounted for the smallest number that have attended one of these picnics. It was held at the shelter house at Lincoln Park or better known now as the City Park, just to the north of the swimming pool.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Woodson County Historical Museum has been opened five days a week since the last of May. It has been closed on Monday and Tuesday. The slowing down of the tourist travel evidently due to the price of gasoline seems to have slowed down the museum visitors. The lack of interest of local people is also noticeable. Two volunteers are on hand to greet people each afternoon that it is open. The extreme heat of this summer is also a factor for some people to stay home on afternoons.

\* \* \* \* \*

The membership of the Historical Society has now reached an all time high. The largest previous membership was in 1972, when it reached 234. It dropped to 232 in 1973. It has now reached 255, with a few months to go in 1974.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN MEMORIA

Jessie M. McKinsey

72

June 15, 1974

Mrs. McKinsey had lived the majority of her life in the Rose vicinity. She had been a member of the Woodson Co. Historical Society for several years, and was an active member as long as her health permitted.

\* \* \* \* \*

It seems like the Yates Center Centennial Committee is getting off to a slow start, but perhaps the momentum will pick up before long, that is if plans are to be made for different events through the year 1975.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE DANIEL JOHNSON FAMILY —

The name of Daniel Johnson was probably not as well known as his sons and grandsons around Yates Center, but we will tell some about his family.

Daniel Johnson was a native of Sussex County, New Jersey. He was married to Elvina Dubois, on November 28, 1847, in Pike County, Penn. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters. Harvey S. was born in April, 1852, and in September of that same year Daniel and family moved to Jefferson County, Wisconsin.

It was in April, 1870, that the Johnson family moved to Woodson County. About 1873, Daniel Johnson took up a homestead of 40 acres in Liberty township, in the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 18, Twp. 24, R. 15. This was less than a mile due east of where the Turkey Creek Church now stands. Coming with Daniel were at least four sons, Harvey, Horace, Joe and Silas. These boys were mostly grown at the time of coming to Woodson County.

While Daniel Johnson did not get the patent for the 40 acres until 1878 (He had to spend five years proving up on the claim), he began to make the rocky acres into quite a show place. Another 40 acres to the west was added to make it into what has been known for a good many years as the "Rock 80."

The barn and coral fences were built of native limestone picked up and quarried on the farm. A large pond was built just to the east of the farmstead and the dam was rippapped with the limerock. The house was built of native sandstone that was evidently quarried on the hill about a half mile west of the Turkey Creek Church. A cave built of rock and mostly above the ground was built against the north side of the house.

Daniel Johnson was a horiculturist by nature and by trade having worked at a nursery before coming here, so after building the house and barn, the sod was broken out west of the house. A large orchard was set out, also shrubs, trees and flowers in which Mr. Johnson took great pride and made the farm one of interest and beauty.

It is hard to visualize as one drives along the dirt road by the rock pile that it is the ruins of the old rock house that around 80 years, more or less that here was a well kept farmstead, blooming orchard and a landscaped yard of lilacs, peonies lining a flag stone walk to the east of the house and to the south of the house to the road was a stone walk with iris and other flowers lining the walk.

Daniel J. Johnson was born, June 30, 1824 and died October 30, 1903. His wife Elvina was born Feb. 11, 1830 and died Sept. 3, 1894. They are both buried in the Yates Center Cemetery.

The balance of the story about this family of Johnson's will be mostly about Harvey S. Johnson and his family.

"Harve" as he was more familiarly known, was born at Pittsburg, Penn. April 23, 1852. When very small he with his parents moved to Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Here Harve grew up, getting a good education for that day and time. He was about 18 years of age when the family came to Woodson Co.

Arriving in Woodson Co. in April, 1870, Harve started teaching in Woodson Co. schools that fall. He taught here until 1873, then went to Hamilton Co., Texas, where he taught for almost two years. Back to Woodson Co., again he taught winter terms for three more years.

In the meantime the new town of Yates Center had been surveyed, and Harve moved into the town.

On Christmas Day, 1876, Harvey S. Johnson and Miss Mary Wille were married. They held the distinction of being the first couple to be married in the new town of Yates Center. They made their home on the east side of the square. On the following December 27, 1877, their first son Clarence Verne Johnson was born, being the third boy born on the townsite of Yates Center. They were the parents of two more children, Willard Leslie and Ethel May.

Between his school teaching Harvey S. Johnson started working in a drug store. In November, 1879, he established his own drug store which was in the family for over fifty years. When he started his drug store in 1879, Yates Center had only between 150 and 200 people.



Interior of Johnson Drug Store. Harve Johnson at left, Vern in center and Leslie at right. About 1901.

Mary, the wife of Harvey S. Johnson, died in November, 1899, at the age of 43 years. She was born in Linn County, Iowa, in November 1856. Mary was a daughter of Henry and Caroline Wille. When she was 18 years old in 1875, she moved with her parents and family to Woodson County, to the town of Kalida.

Yates Center had been chosen as the county seat. The first house to be moved here was located on the corner where the Woodson Hotel now stands. This small frame one story house was occupied by Henry Wille and family of three children. The story is told that Mary Wille, her sister Adda Wille and their sister-in-law, Mrs. George Wille were the first women to spend a night on the new townsite of Yates Center. This would have been on August 18, 1875.



The Johnson Family—Seated are Harvey S., Ethel May, and the mother Mary J. Standing are C. Verne, a foster daughter, Edna Hoagland (James) and W. Leslie.

\* \* \* \* \*

The children and grandchildren of Harvey and Mary Johnson —  
C. Verne married Mary Smith. They had one daughter, Helen. Helen married Lowell Johnson. They had two daughters, Kay and Karen.

Willard Leslie married Jessie O. Seright. They had no children.

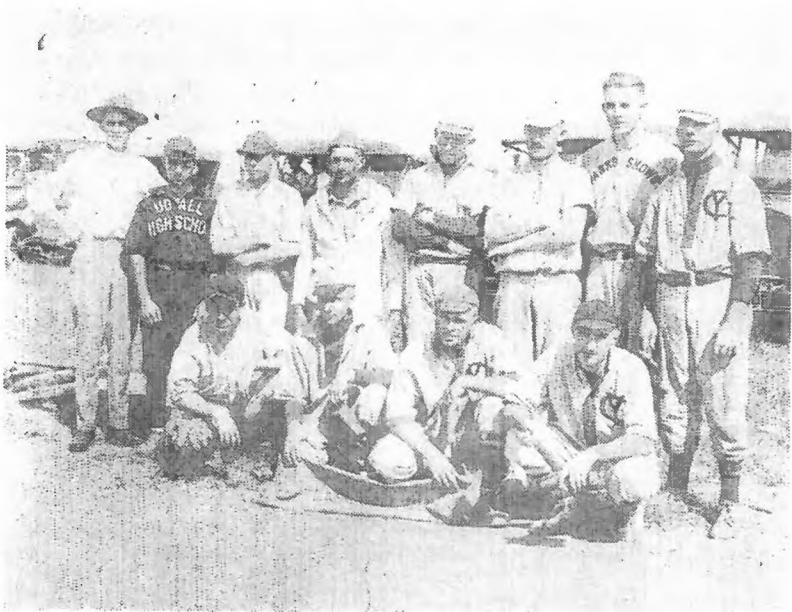
Ethel May married O. P. 'Hi' Nokes. Their children were Mildred and Maxine. Mildred married Jim Willaby and Maxine married Leonard G. Steiner.



C. V. or Verne as he was always known was born on the east side of the square in Yates Center and spent most of his life in business around the square as a druggist, jeweler, optometrist, and in later years a second hand store. Verne passed away at the age of almost 95 years and after a wedded life of around 68 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### YATES CENTER BASEBALL CLUB - 1917 —



Front row, left to right—Ed Wynn, Ed Evans, Verne Farra, Billy Carroll.  
Top row, left to right—Joe Hamilton, manager, Don Shenk, Roy Singleton, Calvin Davidson, Irvin Bedford, Jack Robson, John Woodward, Ray Cummings.

\* \* \* \* \*

## President T. R. Roosevelt Comes to Yates Center —

It was rather early in the morning one day in the summer of 1907, that a special coach of the Chicago, Milwaukee Railway, stopped at the depot in the west edge of Yates Center. (Where the Woodson County Co-op Elevator now stands).

Theodore R. Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, who was on his way to Osawatomie where the President was to dedicate the John Brown Memorial. John Jacob Astor, was aboard the special car, but evidently did not think it necessary for him to get up did not appear on the rear platform.

While it was about 5 o'clock in the morning there was quite a fair sized crowd of Yates Centerites that came to see and hear the president of the United States make a short appearance and a few remarks.



The scene on the siding near the old depot at the west side of Yates Center, as President Roosevelt stood on the rear platform of the special car.

Following the speech of the President, Frank Harder hoisted his seven year old son, Carl F. Harder high enough so the President could reach down and shake his hand.

As far as we know Carl is the only person from Woodson County still living that shook the hand of President Roosevelt on that memorable day.

While this was not nearly as great an occasion as when President Rutherford Hayes visited Neosho Falls in 1879, it placed Yates Center on the presidential map in a small way.



## MORE ABOUT THE TOWN OF ROSE —

Around 1900 and for years later the town of Rose did really bloom and prosper. It became a baled hay metropolis, its church and school were both very busy places in their fields of religion and education. There were many civic minded people in that vicinity that helped it prosper.

One of these civic organizations was the Rose Embroidery Club. These women would meet regularly and probably served the same purpose as a ladies aid.



Members of the Rose Embroidery Club pictured here are left to right in back row-Mrs. Minnie Finley, Mrs. Nora Robbins, Vera Slater, Mrs. Byrd Evans, Mrs. Jenny Dumond, Mrs. Floyd Slater. Front row, left to right-Mrs. Harry Peters, "Grandma" Slater, "Grandma" Porter, Mrs. Jennie Gregg, Mrs. Stroder.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ROSE M. E. CHURCH —

The first notice of a church or Sunday School at what was known as Rose appeared in the Woodson County Post, Neosho Falls in March, 1873, under the heading Eminence News.

"I will tell you firstly, that brothers' Jewett and Cottington administered heavy doses of Gospel at the Rose schoolhouse last week."

On April 30, 1873, from the same paper the notice -Union Sunday School organized at Rose last Sunday. Stephen Day, Sunday School Superintendent, R. B. Woodside, assistant superintendent.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yates Center News, February 25, 1897—"A Methodist church built entirely by subscription is completed. It is the ornament of the township. Messr' Camac, McGill and Edminston deserve great credit for their tireless energy in building the first church in the township."

"The Eminence Township Sunday School convention will convene at the M. E. Church in Sunday January 21, 1898, beginning at 2:00 o'clock with the following program:

Song by the congregation - Prayer-Song-Dec. Susie Dow; Ded. Eva Flomerfeld; Select reading, Nellie Darst; Dec., Dosa Agnew.

"Which has the most influence upon the Sunday School, their literature or the Example with whom they associate?" Debators are Agnew, Foote and Funston.

Dec., Edna Dumond; Dec., Arthur Pingrey; Dec., Gladie Miller; Select Reading, Mrs. Pingrey.

"At what time in the past did people begin to keep the Sabbath Day?" -Debators, Darst, Pingrey and Browning.

Song - adjourn - E. J. Dumond, Secretary, W. B. Woodside, Pres.

\* \* \* \* \*

Quoting from "Memories of My Valley," written by Mrs. Edith Dumond Mentzer, in 1950, we find the following article.

"After the building of the new Methodist Church in Rose in the late 1890's, services were held regularly every two weeks on Sunday afternoons. We believe a Rev. Dorothy was the first minister from the Buffalo circuit, then followed Rev. Cullison, Rev. Henry Bailey and others. We remembered C. E. Hickman, Mrs. June Cox, Frank Bideau and Mrs. Bideau as superintendents, while Mrs. Cora Patterson sponsored the music. Wm. Patterson, Sr. was an itinerant preacher and sponsored the organization at Rose.

Back in the 70's, a Rev. Aldrich held a revival meeting of both the Methodist and Baptist. (Rose and Pleasant Valley)

As baptismal services were by immersion and the only facility was the water of the creeks and ponds, our first memory of any religious service goes back to these baptismal services. Five places come to

mind-Fullers, Pringles, Dumonds, Ford and the Elliot ponds. We learned two songs on these occasions which linger in our memory. They are "Shall We Gather at the River" and "On Jordon's Stormy Banks I Stand."



The Rose Methodist Church as it stood a few years before being sold and torn down. We will tell more about the Rose Church in another issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first telephone line in the Rose community was one that belonged to the Robbins. It was run from the Frank Robbins home, two miles north and a mile east of Rose to the Levi Robbins home a mile west of Rose. It was a private line built by Levi Robbins as a way of communication for him and his sons. This was somewhere around 1900.

Not long after this a telephone line and exchange was established in and around Rose. Mrs. Frank Dumond was the operator for awhile, and then Mrs. Simpson had charge of the exchange.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the year 1904, there was quite some excitement around Rose as the Modern Woodman of America organization of Rose raised money enough to send the Modern Woodman Drill Team to the Worlds Fair at St. Louis, Mo. There were 13 members that made the trip. They were; C. H. McKinsey, Drill Master; Ben Wolff, John Camac, Frank Peters, W. J. Eagle, Wm. Slater, Charles Mathews, C. P. Eagle, George Parsons, Ed Elder, Oscar Barton, N. A. Porter, Wm. Patterson.

## PRAIRIE HAY METROPOLIS —

Around the 1890's, and for several years after the turn of the century the town of Rose became quite a prairie hay shipping place. Men such as Wm. Patterson, the Dumond brothers, Fred and Frank, Chas. D. Robbins and possibly others who did considerably baling and shipping hay from that place. There were several large hay barns in and around about the town.

During the haying season the population of Rose was considerably increased, although some crews lived in tents, while others might drive back and forth to their homes.

The streets of the little town were very busy with teams and wagons bringing baled hay—some going into the barns while as many as 50 hay cars would be on the siding at one time.



While the picture is not very clear we thought it interesting as the town of Rose is in the near background. This crew was the Alley, Porter and Evans outfit. The depot shows just over the buckrake team to the left. Looking through and around the shade on the old horsepower baler one can see one of the hay barns. To the right of the load of bales is the large two story house that still stands in Rose.

The picture was taken in the Evans meadow just to the west side of the railroad tracks.

## HARNESS SHOP AT ROSE —

Around 1902, when the town of Rose was in full bloom a harness shop was established there. The owner and operator of the shop was Edgar Watts. The shop did not stay long at Rose, possibly around two years. Watts was married to Miss Mary Schnell, whose parents lived about 4 1/2 miles north of Rose. This harness shop was located on the west end of the main street by the scale house.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE PATTERSON FAMILY —

One of the leading hay dealers and shippers of Woodson County was Wm. M. Patterson. He was born in Paveshiek Co., Iowa in 1863. He was just three years old when his parents came to Woodson County. His father was Wm. W. Patterson, who was born in Meigs Co., Tennessee, in 1824. He grew up in that county, but as he grew up he was forced to leave that state because of his Union sentiments.

They arrived in Woodson County and took a homestead in section 17, just across the road from the town of Rose in 1867. Here Wm. M. Patterson grew up, teaching several terms of school and was at one time postmaster of Rose, although farming and dealing in baled hay was his main occupation.

On September 23, 1886, Wm. M. Patterson was married to Miss Cora Camac. They had one son, Earl T. Patterson, and a daughter Lois.

Wm. M. Paterson shipped much baled hay from Rose which was where he lived also shipping from Buffalo, Roper and Yates Center.

In later years the Patterson's moved to Yates Center and built the large two story house that is now the Johnson-Smith Funeral Home.

Wm M. Patterson, better known in later years as "Pappy," had prospered in the hay business. After moving to Yates Center a garage was started about 1910, in an old barn just to the west of the Woodson Hotel. It was known as Patterson and Patterson, with his son Earl in the partnership. For awhile Roy Mertz was in the partnership, with the firm called Mertz and Patterson. J. C. Schnell worked as a mechanic for Patterson and Patterson for three years at 20 cents an hour.

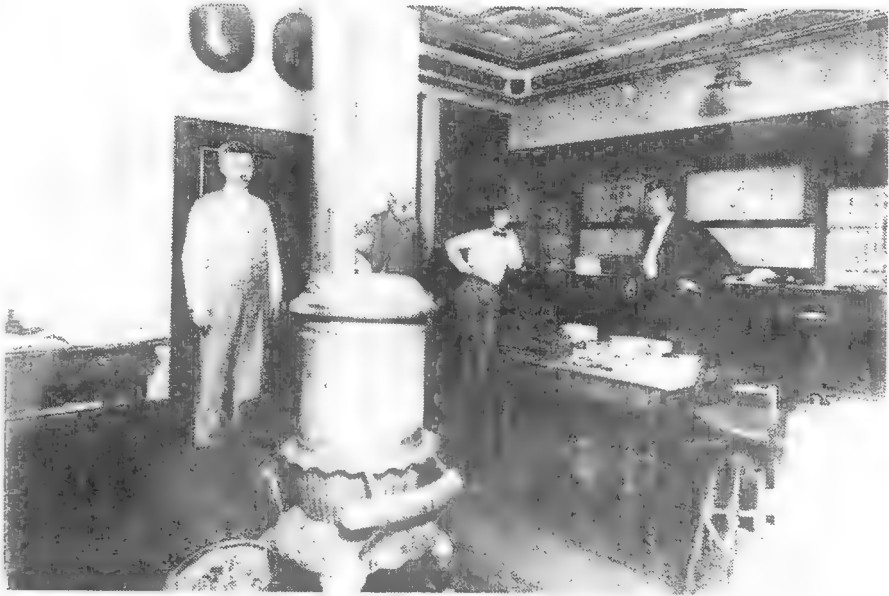
Earl Patterson married Helen Scott.

Earl became well known during World War II, as he was Captain of the company from Yates Center and Woodson County. Co. L, 35th Infantry. They saw service in France during that war.

## TORONTO BANKS —

An item appeared in the Toronto Topic in 1896—"Toronto has a new bank called the "Verdigris Valley State Bank." This bank was later sold to Edward Crebe and wife Sarah in 1903. A new bank building was built where the present First National Bank is located.

Directors of the newly organized First National Bank were: Ira P. Nye, R. Sample, J. G. Streat, Ed Crebe, Geo. K. Scott, J. D. Cannon, and J. J. Roglin.



Interior of the office of the First National Bank of Toronto, taken several years ago. Pictured left is John Cannon, President; man with beard-Henry Lawrence, man without coat is Leo Cannon and the next man is Mark Sample.

Mark Sample was at the head of the First National for many years.

Present officers of the First National Bank of Toronto are: Anita Hobbs, President ; E. H. Hawthorne, Vice-President; Phil G. Evans, Jr., Vice President; Rex R. Moon, Exec. Vice President, and Cashier.

Directors are; E. H. Hawthorne, Chairman of Board; Anita Hobbs, Albert C. Mann, C. K. Sowder, R. P. Rogers, Rex R. Moon.



Some of the other banks of Toronto —

The first bank in Toronto was started and owned by B. F. Everett. This was evidently a private bank. We never learned the name of it.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Toronto Bank in June, 1896, had a capital stock of \$8,500. I. B. Alter was President, and W. P. Dickerson, Cashier.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Toronto State Bank was organized in June, 1913. The Directors were; H. L. Bedford, C. C. Mills, V. L. Jamison, A. C. Kerr, F. L. Wilhite. This bank was located where the Toronto Laundry Mat is. Bedford was from Yates Center.



This is the First National Bank building at Toronto as it is known today. Pictured in front of the bank building is to the left, Jacob P. Schaaf, a long time employee at the bank and a druggist at Toronto. Next to him is John D. Cannon. The I.O.O.F. Lodge hall was in the upstairs part of the building.

To the left hand side of the building at the first door is where the Toronto City Hall is located. After being City Clerk for Toronto, Lester Schaaf, better known as 'Bill', has recently resigned.

## BIG SANDY SCHOOL DIST. #19 —

While the area along the Big Sandy Creek was rather heavily populated by 1860, there were no school buildings for several years later. Evidently school as well as church and Sunday School was held in various homes during this time.

In 1862, Josiah Daniel and family came to Wilson County and staked out a claim on the Osage Indian Trust Land, along the west side of Big Sandy Creek, along the Woodson-Wilson County Line. They would come each spring and summer, do their farming and then return to their Linn County home each fall after harvest.

In 1866, Josiah Daniel came to this area to stay and that fall built the log cabin that has stood these many years and that always been a landmark in that vicinity. With Josiah Daniel were his wife Elizabeth, and four sons, John E., Marshall, George and Jasper.

The following year, 1867, the first schoolhouse was built in that locality. It was constructed of logs, and was built on the Daniel claim close to the west bank of Big Sandy to the south and east of the Daniel cabin.

Shortly after this log school was built a trial was held in it. The trial was of three men who were charged with stealing cattle were held and being tried by a group of vigilantes who lived to the west in the Verdigris Valley. It was told that the trial lasted three weeks, but that hardly seems possible as the vigilantes did not tarry that long with their brand of justice. However these men were convicted and sentenced to be hung. Two of the men were taken to the Josiah Daniel home for their last meal. They were hung on two large oak trees along a branch of Sandy where it crossed the road a little over a half mile south of where the last Big Sandy Schoolhouse stood. The third man was hung on a blackjack oak tree in plain sight of the Absolom Harp home just to the south of where the other two were hung.

In the fall after the triple hanging, the log schoolhouse was moved into Woodson County, two and a half miles to the north of the first site on land belonging to Chris Jewitt and was later known as the Jewitt School. This was in the north half of the northeast quarter of section 27-26-14. About halfway across the 80 acres where the old stone foundation can be found.

This log school was about eighteen by twenty-one feet. Logs split and hued and smoothed on one side with a broadax. Holes were then bored in the rough side of the log and legs were placed in these holes. These were the seats. The writing desks were made by putting wooden pegs into the side wall and placing a split log with the smooth side up. The pupils were taught reading, writing, arithmetic and

spelling. Slates were used as paper. There were sixty-five pupils enrolled in this first school.

This first school was known as a subscription school, with the parents of the pupils paying so much for each pupil enrolled in the school. The terms of school were of three months duration. The first term was taught by Clara Hobson of Illinois. Becoming homesick due to the hardships of pioneer life, she returned to her home back east and the term was completed by Mrs. Sarah Henley, who also taught the second term. The third term was taught by Melissa Gibbs who was a daughter of Mrs. Henley. Mr. Moody a preacher was the fourth teacher.

Some of the pupils attending this old log schoolhouse were: John E. Daniel, Mrs. Sarah (Harp) Henley, William Harp, ---- Gibbs, Mary Harp, H. A. Nichols. Nichols lived in the log cabin with his parents about four miles to the east along the Woodson County Line.

In 1875 the old log schoolhouse was replaced with a frame building built on the Jewett land. The last schoolhouse built at Big Sandy was in 1894, on the southwest corner of the crossroads where it stood for many years. The first teacher in the first frame schoolhouse was Kate Rhea. When Delia Flemming taught this school in 1888, there was an enrollment of eighty-five pupils. Mrs. Clara Trembley was the first teacher in the last schoolhouse that was built on the crossroads.

The first boy to graduate from high school that was also a graduate of Big Sandy was Fred Rogers.

The first school board when the Big Sandy, Dist. Jt. 19, was organized was Josiah Daniel, Rueben Daniel, Mason Jewett.

We have mentioned some of the early teachers, and will give the names of those from when the county records start in 1881. We will give the names but not the years they taught. Sallie Johnson, Delia Flemming, ----- Rogers, Lizzie Downing, Barbara Harris, Reppa Duranent, Ella Medearis, Della Gregory, Anna Hodgson, Grace Guthrie, Clara Trembley, Will Grover, Jennie Klick, Maggie Swisher, 1901, Amelia Schaede, Arthur Nichols, J. T. Long, Margie Allen, '09, Mary McCormick, Fred White, Ralph Wilhite, Iva Pemberton, Wilda Holden, J. R. Kelly, Amy Alley, Margaret Keller, Mrs. Edna Medearis, Irene Giese, Gertrude Gibbs, Blanche Ogilvie, Wilma Petty, Faye Holderman, Doris Cogan, Edith Hill, Bertie Swilley, Dorothy Drake, Elsie Gillespie, Elizabeth Steele, Marjorie Cole, Evelyn Thomas, Lois Pendlay, Evelyn Gleason, Imojean Long, Mrs. Melba Rehmer, 1946, James Patterson, Lillian Linebaugh, Doris McVey Stock, Ruth Chilcott. Jt. 81, Avis State, Vivian Knotts, Francis Webb, 1956.



The Big Sandy School during the term of 1909-10. There were 52 pupils enrolled that term. There are 42 in the picture besides the teacher, Margie (Allen) Englebrecht. The pupils left to right, back row: Zoe Alvis, James Gregory, Elsie Alvis, Elma Puckett, Lillian Grider, the teacher, Kate Bell, Royal Rehmer, Alice Daniel, Clyde Rogers, Dilla Long, Fred Puckett, Fred Bell, Winnie Rogers, Warren Swilley, Elsie Culver, and Floyd Puckett. Center row: Zoe Swilley, Ethel Culver, Wilma Alvis, Hazel Rogers, Pearl Bowman, Howard Bowman, Oscar Swilley, Loren Puckett, -----, Hester Bell, Wanda Bell, Fred Rogers, Bruce Daniel. Bottom row: Frances Rogers, Zoe Henley, Verdilla Blevins, Ethel Alvis, Foley Alvis, Edna Rogers, Juanita Gregory, Goldie Puckett, Lena Puckett, Katie Swilley, Ortha Daniel, -----, and Byrle Alley.

## MR. AND MRS. T. Q. ALLEN —

For many years the sight of the spotted ponies and rig with this man and woman was very familiar in the northwest part of Woodson County or for that matter all between Yates Center and Gridley and on to Burlington.

This was the mode of transportation for Tony and Lillie Allen for quite a few years when they lived on the south end of "Buttermilk Street." The Allen's lived on a farm eight miles north and five west of Yates Center, and a quarter mile back south.

Tunis Quick Allen was born Nov. 11, 1864 on a farm near Terra Haut, Ind. and Lillie Daggett was born Jan. 4, 1874, in Madison Co., Ind. Later both families moved to Mitchell Co., Kansas. Tunis or Tony as he was always known, and Lillie were married March 3, 1892, and after a couple of years moved to Woodson County. In 1897 they purchased the farm that for around 55 years was their home.

In 1914 when Tony was 50 years old his neighbors gathered at the Allen home for a surprise birthday party. This became an annual event on each November 11, and grew into an open house affair. An occasional dance would be held at the Allen home, but there was no numbers sold to pay the musicians. To Tony Allen his old bass violin was more than just a fiddle to play at dances and social gatherings. It seemed to be a part of him.

The Allens were great workers in the Grange. Mrs. Allen was Chaplain in the Kansas State Grange for some time.

While the Allens had no children of their own there were different ones down through the years that called the Allen house their home. The home of Tony and Lillie Allen was one of hospitality down through the years.

The spotted Shetland ponies that they drove as we remember them were Daisy and Dandy. In later years Dandy was replaced by a little bay pony called Beauty. At picnics and fairs a horse race between these two ponies always created quite some interest. At the Coffey County Fair at Burlington one year the ponies were raced with Lloyd and Bob Reed riding the spotted ponies. Mrs. Reed had made satin shirts for the two boys to make the race in. The boys and the ponies made quite a show as they raced in front of the grandstand, as these ponies always ran so smooth and even.

At a Modern Woodson picnic at Burt one year the writer of this and Bob Reed rode the ponies in a race. Bob was riding Daisy and I was riding Beauty. We rode the ponies to a certain distance, turned around and stopped. These ponies were so evenly matched in speed that whichever one got the jump ahead would win. Bob wanted to know if I was ready. I said yes. Bob then shouted, "let's go." Beauty jumped

first. I wasn't used to such a roly-poly fat horse to ride that at the first jump I slid back almost to Beauty's hips. The ponies manes were roached close to their necks so there wasn't anything to grab there. We were almost half way to the goal before I got straightened up. However Beauty needed no urging for she still had that jump ahead. About a half length, and kept that lead to the finish. When we came to a gate in the wire fence I thought we would go through — Beauty didn't, but I did.



This picture of T. Q. and Lillie Allen with the ponies, Dandy and Daisy was taken in Yates Center, we believe at the 50th anniversary of Yates Center in 1925.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen are buried in the Askren Cemetery as are her parents, H. G. and Eliza Daggett.

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#### CATTLE DRIVE TO BATES COUNTY, MO. - 1898

What was perhaps one of the largest, if not the largest cattle drive out of Woodson County, originated in the northwest part of the county somewhere around the head of Dry Creek west of the little town of Keck, now where the Kimbell Ranch headquarters are.

During the latter 1880's and 1890's most of the cattle that was grazed in that area in the western and northwestern part of the county, through the pasture season, came from over in western Missouri. In September of 1898, Jim Dye and the Kisner Brothers, Bill and Frank, threw their herds together to drive them to Bates County, Mo.



Nine men were to come from Missouri to help with the drive, but they did not show up after the cattle had been rounded up for the drive, so Dye and Kisner decided to start the drive anyway. A group of riders from the northwest part of the county were hired to make the drive.

This group of riders consisted of Jim Dye, Bill Kisner, Dennis Corkery, Henry Corkery, a Pickering boy, Frank Dye, Willis Frank, a brother-in-law of the Dyes, Otis Sage, as foreman, and Billy Wright as cook and wagon man.

The first day out they met the riders from Missouri so they all went together, making 18 riders and 1800 head of cattle. The first night out they camped near Vernon. The men all slept on the ground. A coral made of lariat ropes kept the horses close to camp.

The second night the cattle were corraled and camp made somewhere near Geneva. Here a hay meadow was used as a campsite and they were to move the herd out early the next morning. The next morning happened to be Sunday and the men were in no hurry to leave. Otis Sage, Jim Dye and Billy Wright were sitting in the grass by the wagon when the owner of the land drove up, "mad as a hornet" as Sage told it. Sage got up to meet the landowner, Jim Dye lay flat in the grass as Billy Wright got the wagon between them. Dye climbed into the wagon and into a bed until they got the herd under way. Dye had made the deal with the landowner and stayed hid in the wagon so that the landowner never knew he was there. Before the herd got very far another man came riding up and said that he had a bunch of cattle at his farm and demanded damages. Otis Sage paid the damages and again the herd got going.

The third night's camp was north of Colony and the fourth night east of Lone Elm. The next night they camped three miles southwest of Blue Mound, where they rested the cattle for a day with a man by the name of Silkill.

Then on to Fulton, Mo., and then to near Hume, Missouri. West of Hume the riders and owners began to split the herd. The cutting of the herd was here, some of the cattle going south and east and some up by Rich Hill, Mo. This trail drive took seven days from the northwest part of Woodson Co., to near Hume, Mo.

During the 1890's there were herds of cattle driven over this route almost every year, in spring and fall after the cattle had fattened on the prairie grass in this area.

Jim Dye, who was quite a character in his own way made this trip back and forth to Missouri many times in those years. He came from Metz, Mo. with his first herd of cattle in spring of 1893.

As we write about Billy Wright with the chuck wagon, it makes us

wonder if he had his fiddle along. We believe that there could be no doubt that he did as it always seemed to us that Billy Wright and his fiddle were almost inseperable, for he loved to play that instrument.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HAY BALERS AND BALING HAY —

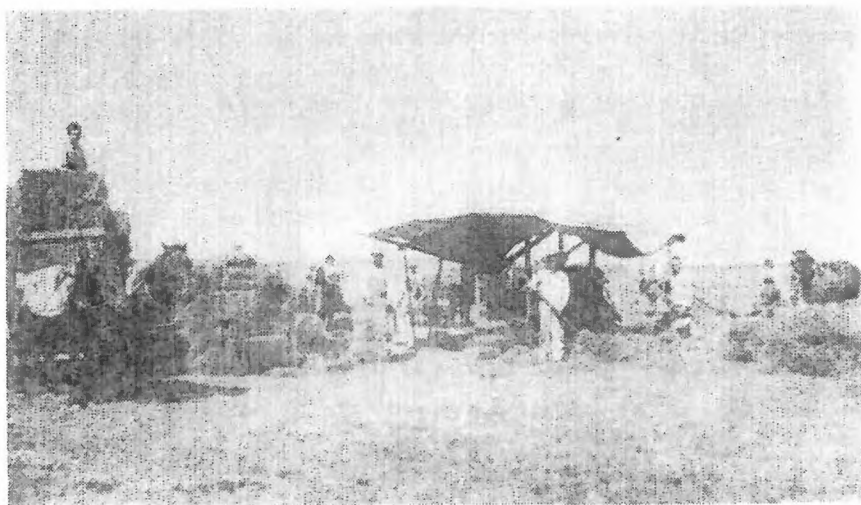
Following the rather dangerous foot-feed balers was the Auto-Fedan and Eagle presses. They were some different, but both worked on the same principal. They were called self feeders. A door would open up, the feeder would put a forkfull of hay into the hopper, the release of the plunger would close the door as the plunger would push the hay into the bale chamber. The plunger would be released three times as the team would make one complete circle. The heavy iron "gooseneck" located over the power at one end on the baler was the means of pulling the plunger out and releasing it.



This picture is of the back side of one of the old Auto-Fedan hay presses, mounted on the four wheels. It was quite an operation to move these balers from one location to another. The wheels had to be mounted to move and then taken off to bale hay.

The editor of this quarterly, did his first work around one of these balers, in 1914, when nine years old. We were working for Archie Wells. He and Jack Stewart worked on the baler. Each of these men had a team to work on the baler. My job was to drive the team around and around the circle, crossing over the plunger as it would be released and go out. It was the job of the boy driving the baler team to keep the horses going as they would slow up when the plunger would be going into the bale chamber on the "squeeze."

The team of horses would be changed every 25 bales as it was hard work. The two men working on the baler would change off from feeding the baler to tying and piling the bales into the bale pile. They would change off every 50 bales. But the small boy driving the team had no one to change off with, so he just kept going around. We have worked on both the Auto-Fedan and Eagle hay balers, from driving the baler team to pitching or feeding to tying and piling bales. We have also worked the two horses on the buckrake and handled a sulkey rake with one horse.



This is the front or working side of the old Auto-Fedan hay press, with the wheels removed. Evidently three men worked on this baler, one man helping feed the baler and also helping pile the bales. The crude shade over the baler was several gunny sacks sewed together. Crude but very helpful.

We do not know whose press this one was, but believe that it was in the Batesville area.

To get 300 bales a day with one of these balers was a good day's baling. They were hard on man and beast, but helped both men and boys financially throughout the summer months.

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